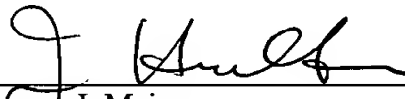


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

To permit reconsideration of the present application, the attached request for continued examination has been filed. It is further noted that Applicants have forwarded a suggested declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 for filing. Such is now being reviewed for revision in accordance with U.S. Patent Office practice and procedure and for prompt filing. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to delay acting on this application until this declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 has been forwarded by being hand carried to technology Group 3711 for the Examiner's review as requested in the petition referred to in the transmittal form attached hereto. Should the Examiner have any question regarding this matter, he is invited to call Applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
James D. Hamilton
Registration No. 28,421
Attorney of Record

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)